

1 what -- and make a recommendation back to this
2 Commission -- about what components of this, if any,
3 should be included in the overall research scheme and
4 have that as a part of the telephone call or however
5 we get the next step done.

6 Leo, you look confused --

7 COMMISSIONER LOESCHER: No, I've stated
8 exactly that, twice.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Absolutely. And I
10 want to be sure that that's where we are. Okay, thank
11 you very much. We appreciate your being here today.

12 We look forward to hearing from the
13 Research Subcommittee and we'll facilitate that
14 happening in a way that will accommodate the varied
15 schedules that exist among our Commissioners.

16 We do have a few other small items of
17 business to discuss, and in case the audience hadn't
18 noticed, we sort of made the decision to keep
19 following through and see how much we could get done,
20 and we have continued to work through lunch.

21 With that, if you'll notice under the New
22 Business section of the agenda, we have covered the

1 introduction of staff, and I think the next item up
2 would be the discussion of the workplan which I think
3 is appropriate to follow our discussion on the
4 Research Subcommittee.

5 And let me offer a suggestion here as a
6 way to proceed at this point. I think with the
7 adoption of the Research Subcommittee's proposal
8 today, and with the presentation from ACIR, what I
9 would like to suggest at this point is that one of the
10 first tasks that we give to our new executive director
11 is to take that information back and incorporate it
12 into and present to us, a workplan that fits with the
13 Research proposal that we have just adopted.

14 It was very frustrating to figure out on
15 those, which comes first, the chicken or the egg, how
16 can you work out a workplan without knowing exactly
17 what the Research Agenda would be and how you get that
18 done? But I think it would be very helpful if we give
19 any input or guidance, suggestions, to the staff as
20 they begin that process, and suggest that they get
21 back to us.

22 If you'd like to put a time limit on it or

1 if you want to leave it in a reasonable time, a
2 workplan for us to review. And I'd open it up for
3 discussion at that point in time. Commissioner
4 Wilhelm.

5 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I think your
6 procedural suggestion makes excellent sense. If I
7 might comment a bit on the -- if this fits into what
8 -- the comments you were just asking for on the
9 workplan, timeline in the binder?

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Appropriate?

12 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I read elsewhere in
14 the materials we were given this morning -- and
15 correct me if I'm wrong, Kay -- that you have
16 concluded that the notion of visiting in Atlantic City
17 in November is probably not realistic in terms of --

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes, that was going to
19 be a part of our next discussion on the site visit,
20 but I think it's appropriate in the larger discussion
21 of the workplan that we have that now.

22 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I'm sorry, I wanted

1 to address most primarily the question of site visits.

2 Should I wait?

3 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Let's go ahead and do
4 that now within this context and have the discussion
5 about Atlantic City.

6 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Okay. And so
7 again, I gather you had concluded that November wasn't
8 just realistic in terms of putting it together, and so
9 --

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: It occurred to me that
11 bringing on a new executive director that we should
12 give her the opportunity to get in, organize the
13 staff, and that we have a draft suggestion that's here
14 -- because we said we would, and for that purpose
15 only.

16 But I would love to give our new executive
17 director the opportunity to review that, to make some
18 suggestions, to work with the Commission, and I think
19 it would be very helpful if we could delay that. And
20 that would be my suggestion.

21 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I would concur with
22 that for the reasons that you just described. So with

1 that change in the possible timeline that is in our
2 binder behind Tab 8, and presumably there might flow
3 some other changes, modifications, and so forth behind
4 that, let me say in general, that I believe that the
5 kind of meeting schedule that you have outlined as
6 well as the locations of some of those meetings, make
7 a great deal of sense.

8 And I make that comment without I hope,
9 being disrespectful to the views that a number of the
10 commissioners have expressed about the difficulties in
11 terms of their day jobs in making these kinds of
12 trips.

13 My sons are regularly and accurately
14 pointing out to me that I'm hopelessly pre-electronic,
15 and so it may be that this is the reason for the
16 feeling that I have that in order to get any kind of
17 a real sense of the context that any kind of an
18 ability to begin to make the kind of judgments that
19 our final report will require, that we do need to go
20 to a bunch of these places.

21 I indicated at our last meeting I'd like
22 to go do more. But I recognize that, Kay, in

1 outlining the revised workplan and meeting schedule
2 and site visits here that you've attempted -- in a way
3 that I think represents an excellent effort -- to
4 reconcile all of those different points of view that
5 were expressed on this.

6 So I don't want to belabor this but since
7 this has not been approved, I would like to very
8 strongly support the kinds of business that are
9 suggested here. And if I could just give one example
10 of the sort of thing that I hope the commissioners
11 will not overlook.

12 I've heard a number of commissioners say -
13 - and I think I understand why this gets said -- well,
14 you know, gee, why do we need to go to Las Vegas? You
15 know, everybody knows about Las Vegas. Well, I would
16 respectfully submit that everybody doesn't know about
17 Las Vegas.

18 And moreover, I think that there are
19 points to be made about the particular kind of
20 manifestation of gambling that is Las Vegas that very
21 few people know about -- including as a matter of
22 fact, some of the people who are there all the time.

1 I just want to mention two of them.

2 People think about Las Vegas, well, it's the strip --
3 but it's these huge mega-resort of the kind that Terry
4 Lanni runs. Well, there's a lot to that; there is all
5 that. And if you haven't been to Las Vegas in recent
6 years then it's a lot different than it used to be.

7 But you know, there's other manifestations
8 of gambling in Las Vegas that I think are very much a
9 part of what we're looking at. Just speaking
10 personally, for example, I'm very uncomfortable when
11 I go into a convenience store in Las Vegas and I find
12 a row of six slot machines and I find people sitting
13 there, you know, plunking the money into them.

14 And I think that's one kind of
15 manifestation of gambling that regrettably, is best
16 seen in Las Vegas and needs to be looked at and
17 thought about. Intuitively, I think there's a lot of
18 problems with that, but I think we need to look at it
19 in addition to researching it.

20 On the other hand, I think that Las Vegas
21 represents the kind of gambling -- and it's not the
22 exclusive representative of this type of gambling, but

1 it's the most developed kind of gambling that, in my
2 view, is the most beneficial. In particular, from the
3 point of view of the question of economic impact and
4 as what I believe is the most important part of
5 economic impact, the question of job quality.

6 Intuitively -- I believe that we need to
7 research this, but we also need to look at it.

8 Intuitively, I believe that from the point of view of
9 the impact on the host community, and from the point
10 of view of the number, quality and kind of jobs that
11 draw from all over the -- that are created I think,
12 the destination resorts all across the country that
13 draw from all over the nation and all over the world,
14 are more valuable than other manifestations of
15 gambling.

16 And I don't think anybody could
17 realistically form a set of judgments about the nature
18 of the impact on the community and the nature of the
19 economic benefits of destination resorts without going
20 to the place where they are the most well-developed.

21 So I only go through that discussion to
22 say that, even though I have heard commissioners who

1 I respect say, well gee, why do we need to take time
2 to go to Las Vegas? Everybody knows about Las Vegas.
3 You know, it is what it is -- I think it's a lot more
4 complicated than that.

5 So just using that as an example, and I
6 won't take the commissioner's time to go through all
7 these other suggested places, I think there's enormous
8 value in making these kinds of visits. I had the
9 experience for the first time, of being in Biloxi,
10 Mississippi last week, and I spent some time in the
11 course of that visit -- too, the advantage of the fact
12 that I was going to be there -- to spend some time
13 with Dr. Moore and learn a little bit more about the
14 Gulf Coast of Mississippi which is an area I'm not
15 familiar with.

16 And not that I consider myself now an
17 expert on the basis of one visit and one extended
18 conversation with Dr. Moore, but I feel like that
19 gives me a much better grip on beginning to think
20 about the kinds of judgments we ultimately will have
21 to make.

22 So I would very much hope that the

1 commissioners will -- and again, trying to be
2 respectful of everybody's time commitments -- will
3 give very serious consideration to supporting the kind
4 of workplan and meeting schedule and site visits that
5 you have suggested here in the binder.

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Commissioner Leone.

7 COMMISSIONER LEONE: Yes. I'm going to
8 respectfully -- because I guess we're being very
9 respectful today -- disagree a little bit with the
10 thrust of John's remarks. And I'm going to be
11 plainspoken about it.

12 I understand that there are -- that in
13 terms of giving people a sense that they've had an
14 opportunity to be heard and an opportunity to speak to
15 the Commission, that there is a necessity for us to
16 visit a certain place, because I think people will
17 feel they've been treated unfairly or slighted, and we
18 want to create an atmosphere in which people at least
19 have a sense -- and being quite unspecific -- that the
20 Commission was willing to listen and would make an
21 attempt to be objective, whatever our points of view
22 are.

1 Having said all that -- and I have to
2 admit, he's usually quoting me when he says, why are
3 we going there? And I've never been to Las Vegas. In
4 fact, I haven't been to Atlantic City probably, for 15
5 years and I haven't been to any of these other
6 gambling places. So I'm probably, among the
7 commissioners, am one of the minority who hasn't been
8 exposed to a lot of this activity.

9 On the other hand, I've been exposed to an
10 awful lot of another kind of activity that I think is
11 analogous. John mentioned the dangers of going to a
12 place for a day or two and then thinking you're an
13 expert.

14 I think it's one of the -- part of the
15 deterioration of the public discourse in this country
16 is that -- I'll give you my favorite example -- is
17 that now reporters traditionally interview other
18 reporters on the air who have just spent a day-and-a-
19 half in Korea and about, well what do you think is
20 really going to happen up there on the DMZ, Jay? And
21 they go back and forth.

22 And we've sort of -- if I want to learn

1 about a place I'd like to make sure I get to hear from
2 people who have thought about it and are experts. So
3 I believe we need to have some regional visits to make
4 it convenient for people to visit with us. I don't
5 know that we all have to go everywhere, but then
6 again, as I've learned in these first few meetings,
7 I'm much more trusting in my fellow commissioners than
8 some of the others.

9 But I do think we want to give people an
10 opportunity to be heard. We want to be sensitive to
11 the economics that don't enable them to travel, where
12 it's convenient for us.

13 But I guess I think that we should try to
14 make sure we do that; that we are in places where
15 people can come together and talk to us who really
16 know something. And that even though there will be
17 competition to appear and we have to be open about
18 that, that we reach out for people who may well have
19 some objective expertise to bring to the table.

20 As for the rest of it, you know, I'll go
21 along with the majority. Part of my hesitancy is my
22 own taste in architecture which has never brought me

1 to these particular communities. That's another
2 story.

3 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Let me interject at
4 this point. I want to remind the commissioners that
5 the workplan is still in draft form, and so we are
6 here at this point to entertain discussion of
7 additions, deletions, or that sort of thing. And I
8 wanted to remind -- each of you I think, had received
9 a letter from Dr. Dobson, and I wanted to make sure
10 that you had the opportunity to mention that and to
11 talk about that and to make your case.

12 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: Are you referring to
13 my letter in regard to Louisiana --

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That's correct.

15 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: Thank you, Madam
16 Chairman. I wrote a letter on August 27th proposing
17 that we at least discuss the possibility of going to
18 Louisiana. And it's not in the Commission's book and
19 there's no reference to it. May I distribute copies?

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Well, I think -- yes,
21 you certainly may. All commissioners got it; it was
22 cc'd to all commissioners. And so the reason it

1 wasn't in the book is because they all received it.

2 But if you'd like to distribute additional copies

3 that's fine.

4 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: It's a procedural

5 matter. I assume when a commissioner makes a

6 suggestion that if it's not addressed in the tentative

7 plan by the executive director or the Chairman, that

8 there ought to be some reference to it. Would you

9 agree with that?

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I would absolutely

11 agree.

12 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: And this letter is

13 not reflected in the workplan, and so I don't know

14 whether to redistribute it to talk about it, or to

15 just wait for a second.

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: No, just as a point of

17 order, it was my opinion that when this came up on the

18 agenda, that that would be the appropriate time to

19 discuss it, and I knew that each of you had received

20 it.

21 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: Is this the

22 appropriate time --

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: This is the
2 appropriate time.

3 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: Well, I had
4 suggested that we reconsider going to Louisiana --
5 which happens to be my home state -- not to get
6 involved in what John referred to as the black hole of
7 the political debate in any way -- we don't have any
8 business messing with that, and I concur. But there
9 are other reasons why I think we should go there.

10 First of all, Louisiana is the state that
11 has the fourth largest amount of money gambled in it
12 at this time. It is the only state where there has
13 been a referenda to eliminate gambling, so there have
14 been problems there.

15 My concern is that we're going to go to
16 the showplaces where gambling has been ostensibly most
17 successful and not look at the problems associated
18 with gambling -- and there are a lot of them in
19 Louisiana. Studies commissioned by the State of
20 Louisiana and Louisiana State University suggest
21 serious problems with juvenile gamblers. What can we
22 learn about that?

1 The enabling legislation which created
2 this Commission requires that we consider, among other
3 issues, an assessment of the relationship between
4 gambling and levels of crime, and of existing
5 enforcement and regulatory practices that are intended
6 to address any such relationship. It's been alleged
7 in recent criminal proceedings that Louisiana -- in
8 Louisiana, members of major crime families have been
9 involved in the gambling industry. Are there lessons
10 for us to learn there?

11 A 1995 survey of Louisiana district
12 attorneys indicated that crime in the state has risen
13 in direct correlation to the increase in gambling.
14 What factors have contributed to that rise? Are these
15 factors common in other venues where gambling is
16 legal?

17 Riverboat gambling facilities are alleged
18 to have flouted the laws requiring that they operate
19 in the waterways. To what extent does this occur, and
20 is it symptomatic of other riverboat gambling
21 facilities? News reports indicate that the land-
22 based, New Orleans casino has gone bankrupt throwing

1 hundreds of workers out of jobs. Are there lessons to
2 be learned from that experience in consideration of
3 licensure and placement of casinos and other
4 locations?

5 And nearly five percent of Louisianians
6 are reported to be problem gamblers. Is that a level
7 common in other states or is it higher than usual?
8 What's the extent of that problem and what factors are
9 contributing to a level of pathology?

10 Again, my reason for feeling we should go
11 to either Louisiana or a place like that, is that we
12 see the seamy side of gambling if that is in fact, Mr.
13 Lanni, an accurate assumption about gambling.

14 COMMISSIONER LANNI: Well, after hearing
15 your comments, commissioner, I can see why you left
16 the state.

17 (Laughter.)

18 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: I was ten months of
19 age when I left the state, so I had little choice in
20 the matter.

21 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Commissioner Wilhelm.

22 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: You know, Jim and

1 I have been getting along so well in the Research
2 Subcommittee that I'm not going to say a whole lot
3 about that, except to say that -- and I know I'm going
4 to get in trouble with those who have stayed in
5 Louisiana longer than ten months by saying this -- but
6 you know, you've got a chicken and an egg problem if
7 you're going to go look at Louisiana, because you said
8 Louisiana or a place like that.

9 There is no place like Louisiana, and in
10 all seriousness, and I'm not trying to be facetious,
11 it would be a difficult task to separate out the
12 string of Louisiana which is its rather unusual
13 gambling manifestations, from the whole fabric of
14 Louisiana.

15 But the comment that I really wanted to
16 follow up on is Richard Leone's comment. Again, I am
17 sympathetic to, as Richard put it at our last meeting,
18 the time burdens on the, as he put it, the citizen
19 commissioners as opposed to those of us who have some
20 professional relationship to the gambling industry.

21 But you know, I read a very compelling
22 article recently by Rick Hill from the National Indian

1 Gaming Association, and the point of the article --
2 which was more eloquently put than I will be able to
3 summarize it -- was that if one wants to understand
4 tribal gaming, then surely one ought to go to Foxwoods
5 in Connecticut which is the largest and most
6 profitable casino in the world.

7 But just as surely, one ought to go to
8 rural Indian casinos in places that have 2-lane roads
9 and very little economy and one ought to go to the
10 other manifestations of Indian gambling in between.

11 And I was very, very struck by that. So much so that
12 I actually sent a note to Mr. Hill who I don't know.

13 And I think the same thing is true of all
14 kinds of gambling. I respectfully suggest that merely
15 listening to people that know a lot about something --
16 which is a very good activity to do -- is not by
17 itself sufficient.

18 I would suggest for example, that even
19 though I've lived in California for a number of years,
20 and even though Leo, who isn't with us right this
21 moment, has lived there since he was two years old, I
22 bet you that even Leo, with his encyclopedic knowledge

1 of that state, would learn a great deal by visiting
2 some of the current manifestations of card clubs and
3 some of the current manifestations of tribal casinos
4 that are in that state, as well as -- I don't know
5 that Leo ever frequents a bar -- but as well as the
6 current state of the California lottery.

7 So I just don't think there's any
8 substitute for going to look at this stuff, in
9 addition to listening to people. And I apologize for
10 belaboring that point.

11 COMMISSIONER BIBLE: Well, I --

12 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Commissioner Bible.

13 COMMISSIONER BIBLE: Yes, I would concur.
14 I think it's very important that we do go out, that we
15 visit sites and destinations that do have gaming
16 available -- not only to broaden our horizon and our
17 knowledge, but also for input from the public and
18 people that are interested and have a story to tell,
19 either pro or con.

20 There's obviously good stories; there's
21 bad stories. Louisiana, maybe a different type story.
22 I think we can all ascribe certain characteristics to

1 that particular jurisdiction as to whether what has
2 occurred in Louisiana is a problem of gaming or is
3 endemic to the culture.

4 But I think it's important that we go
5 visit. The one thing I did notice in terms of the
6 agenda is that we probably have left out the Chicago
7 area. There's quite a lot of gambling activity going
8 on in Illinois, in Iowa, in Michigan, Indiana, and now
9 across the border in Canada, and I think it's probably
10 important to include that within the agenda.

11 Then the other thing that I noticed, Madam
12 Chairman, is the proposed Commission retreat -- which
13 to me kind of suggests a non-public sort of item --
14 and I would be concerned about that.

15 I believe that if we develop
16 recommendations we should do in a public context, much
17 as we are today, sitting within a room, in a meeting
18 room, a more formal environment instead of a retreat.
19 And it's probably an implication; I'm sure that's not
20 what you intended in the agenda, but --

21 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: No, that just means
22 that we work through dinner.

1 COMMISSIONER BIBLE: No, that's fine; just
2 a longer meeting. But I was concerned about that. I
3 think in terms of calendar considerations I think it
4 would be very helpful to me, and probably to the other
5 members of the Commission, if we would start zeroing
6 in on some dates so we could perhaps schedule all of
7 next year, decide where we're going to be, so we can
8 set our calendars and anticipate the meetings so we
9 can plan our other activities accordingly.

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I don't hear any
11 objections, Dr. Dobson, for adding Mississippi. I
12 think the concern -- for adding Louisiana. I think
13 the concern that was expressed last time had to do
14 with the Senate race, but that issue has been
15 resolved, and so there is no real reason that I know
16 of, for not --

17 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Didn't Mr.
18 Terwilliger -- I know he's left -- didn't he resolve
19 it?

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: He sure did. And so
21 I don't hear any objection with doing that.

22 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Having said --

2 COMMISSIONER LANNI: Madam Chair?

3 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes?

4 COMMISSIONER LANNI: I would like to
5 reinforce Mr. Bible's thoughts about considering
6 Illinois -- especially because Indiana and Illinois
7 have the riverboats and there is a significant amount
8 of gaming and I think it is well worth considering
9 that.

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: And as we add these
11 two, please understand that what that means is that
12 something that you see before you now is going to be
13 deleted. Because --

14 COMMISSIONER LANNI: Or Madam Chair, you
15 could add a stop or two. I'll take notes for
16 Commissioner Leone if he doesn't want to.

17 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: Madam Chairman?

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: This is the 1998
20 proposal. Are there possibilities of a visit or two
21 in 1999?

22 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Absolutely. And what

1 I'd like to do with that, again, remind the
2 commissioners that the workplan that you have before
3 you was not adopted -- it was draft -- and that the
4 suggestion earlier today was that now that we have a
5 Research proposal passed, that we sort of lay that
6 over and superimpose that over what we have in front
7 of us; and that we're going to ask our executive
8 director to take on that task -- to incorporate that
9 and the comments that we've heard here today -- and
10 that we will come then, for a workplan that will be
11 voted on and as well as adoption of that final
12 research.

13 COMMISSIONER LOESCHER: When would you
14 anticipate the next meeting?

15 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That's open for
16 discussion. I've heard January, but it's at the will
17 and at the discretion of the Commission.

18 COMMISSIONER MCCARTHY: January 1st.
19 January 1st or the 2nd.

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That's open for
21 discussion with the Commission. When would you like to
22 have the next meeting?

1 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: I think January
2 makes a lot of sense. I just don't think
3 realistically we're going to get done before the
4 holidays and if we wait past January we're going to be
5 even farther behind.

6 COMMISSIONER BIBLE: Does that fit in with
7 the Research Subcommittee's timeframe?

8 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Sure. We meet
9 every couple of weeks.

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I heard a suggestion
11 that we meet on December 31st at MGM. Did anyone --

12 COMMISSIONER LANNI: Unfortunately with
13 the interest in gaming, there are no rooms available.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: January? And I will
15 also ask the executive director that when we come
16 forward with the workplan that they have dates so that
17 commissioners can in fact, block off those times on
18 their calendars and adjust the work schedule to --

19 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: So tentatively,
20 the third week of January, Madam Chair?

21 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Tentatively, the third
22 week of January. Now, knowing what that means to

1 Commission staff in terms of having to work -- I mean,
2 it really is a process to watch; the grids that are
3 done with calendars in order to accommodate everyone's
4 schedule -- but we will certainly take a first look at
5 that third week of January.

6 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: Madam Chairman, I
7 would find it really helpful to schedule the whole
8 year.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes, that was a
10 suggestion. That's correct.

11 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: At that time?

12 COMMISSIONER DOBSON: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That's correct. The -
14 -

15 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: May I -- I'm
16 sorry. I had to leave the room on Commission work.
17 May I ask whether there was specific discussion on the
18 list of potential testifier that are --

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: For Atlantic City?

20 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That's the next topic
22 to come up. And --

1 COMMISSIONER LOESCHER: Madam Chairman?

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER LOESCHER: Just one comment.

4 I spoke earlier on the point and hopefully the
5 committee and the executive director might consider
6 it. I was hoping that in August or September of 1998
7 we would have a first, rough draft of a database, and
8 interim research reports, and anything else we have --
9 the first rough draft of our beginnings of our report.

10 And I think that would -- if we had some
11 goal out there where we could see an interim by August
12 or September of 1998? It's like nine or ten months
13 out.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Right.

15 COMMISSIONER LOESCHER: The idea is to set
16 a goal where we don't use up the whole two years and
17 then look at our thing and say, it's not there.

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Would you like to
19 address that, Leo? Particularly how it relates to our
20 contract --

21 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: I do want to
22 address this. Commissioner Loescher said in an

1 earlier discussion that he would have no objection to
2 extending the life of the Commission.

3 I don't want to suggest any kind of
4 serious extension, but given the slowness with which
5 we got started -- given the realities of proceeding on
6 the research aspect now of project design, finding the
7 budgeting required, and so on -- I know and wouldn't
8 object to it, I would strongly urge the members of
9 this Commission to consider that we extend the life --
10 ask members of Congress to extend the life of the
11 Commission -- by maybe 90 days or 120 days, in order
12 to allow the research to be completed in timely
13 fashion.

14 And I think there are other reasons as
15 well. Now I'm not suggesting that be addressed now,
16 but I'd like us to think about that, and I don't think
17 that's unreasonable and I don't think we're trying to
18 perpetuate the life of the Commission beyond what we
19 can substantiate as absolutely necessary.

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Well, we have two more
21 short items and we're beginning to lose our
22 commissioners and I don't want to lose a quorum. So

1 if we can work through those I would really appreciate
2 it.

3 The first is the Atlantic City site visit.
4 May I suggest this? That since we have postponed that
5 until January and it's not as pressing as it may have
6 been, that commissioners take a look at that, review
7 that, and send comments to the executive director.

8 COMMISSIONER LANNI: Madam Chair, I'd be
9 more than pleased to. I would like to make one
10 comment, if I may?

11 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Absolutely.

12 COMMISSIONER LANNI: In looking at the
13 draft agenda for the first time, which as you know,
14 you just distributed to us, I certainly have no
15 problem with some of the site visits. However, as I
16 said when I was appointed to this particular
17 Commission, I would not purport to indicate to anyone
18 that I would be objective. However, I intended to and
19 continue to intent to be fair and reasonable.

20 And I think the approach of visiting the
21 Rescue Mission in Atlantic City, I support that. I
22 have served dinners there before -- not in Atlantic

1 City but in other areas -- and I think its meaningful
2 to visit that.

3 I think a visit to the Cash for Gold store
4 and other pawn shops -- I've never been to a pawn shop
5 before so that will be kind of intriguing in itself.
6 But maybe in the sense of balance and fairness, maybe
7 those two site visits and then compare it to the back
8 of the house at Taj Mahal.

9 Possibly I would suggest that they
10 consider maybe a visit to the new Atlantic City High
11 School. There's positives and negatives; not
12 everything is white and black; there's some gray.

13 But I think a more balanced maybe, then
14 that approach of just going to a Rescue Mission, Cash
15 For Gold, and then seeing how the back of the house at
16 a major hotel casino works, is not totally balanced.

17 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Well you know, I
18 questioned that when I first saw it and I wondered why
19 there was a site visit there for a Rescue Mission.
20 And the answer that I was given was that it came from
21 both sides in the -- both pro and anti-gambling forces
22 in that area, and they were quite proud of the fact

1 that that Mission existed because of the generous
2 contributions.

3 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Madam Chair, I
4 have two very brief comments -- are you finished?

5 COMMISSIONER LANNI: I'm just going to add
6 one thing if I could, Leo. No, I think it's fine to
7 visit it and I don't have a strong feeling that it's
8 favorable or unfavorable. I think it's just valuable,
9 that's all.

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Right. Yes, that
11 would be my point. Yes, you may, and what I'd like to
12 do then is to really ask people to write their
13 recommendations, and particularly when you look at
14 this panel -- Leo, I think that was a suggestion of
15 yours -- the panel of --

16 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Yes. I raised
17 this last night. I was having a discussion with a few
18 people around the table here at dinner. I would like
19 to make sure that we don't hear totally -- I think the
20 public has an absolute right to have access to this
21 Commission and to testify.

22 And I think we also need to make sure that

1 some portion of the testimony that we hear at each of
2 the public hearings we're going to participate in
3 around the country, evokes some fresh testimony and
4 some thought-provoking testimony. That's why I
5 suggested this idea of an expert panel to dwell on
6 some well-defined subject that's part of our agenda.

7 The second thought -- and I'm glad to see
8 it in here for consideration. The second thought is,
9 if your Senators are going to address this committee
10 may I suggest that we find out what hour is convenient
11 for their schedule and let them testify at whatever
12 that hour might be?

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Well, I would say that
14 we would try to accommodate any of our government
15 officials and not just U.S. Senators; whether it's the
16 Governor of --

17 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: I'm talking about
18 all of them, yes. I'm talking about members of
19 Congress at the start. Obviously, if the Governor
20 addresses, it's --

21 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Certainly. We try to
22 maintain maximum flexibility on the agenda and work

1 with any elected official -- indeed, any expert
2 witness who would come before us to do that.

3 Please get that back. I will ask Nancy to
4 contact each of you and get your input. Just one
5 final quick thing. On the rules for public comment,
6 I promised the Commission that we would come forward
7 with some rules; they are in there.

8 One of the questions that was suggested --
9 one of the concerns that was raised is that anyone
10 coming before us for public comment understand some
11 areas of conduct. And we will draft something like
12 that; that everyone that comes before the Commission
13 for public comment would adhere to.

14 Any other questions, concerns?

15 COMMISSIONER LANNI: Madam Chair. I was
16 just wondering if there any more subcommittees that
17 need to be formalized today? The only one we've
18 approved to-date is the Research Committee, formally.

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Well, we could -- we
20 had the Research. There was an ad hoc committee that
21 was for the executive director. That one has
22 completed its work.

1 COMMISSIONER LANNI: We'd get a budget --

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: And what I'd like to
3 do perhaps then, is suggest some other subcommittees
4 and we will then vote on those in our next meeting.

5 COMMISSIONER LANNI: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair.

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Commissioner Wilhelm.

8 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Gee whiz, it's been
9 two months since I got that look from you.

10 (Laughter.)

11 I was just going to make a really minor
12 suggestion in the interests of the forests.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Absolutely.

14 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Which is, in
15 Appendix F in the binder there's a selection of news
16 media articles about the activities of the Commission.
17 And much as I like to read your name and mine and all
18 of our colleagues, as we all know, the volume of that
19 is --

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Big.

21 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: So I would
22 respectfully suggest that we either ship all of it by,

1 you know, trailer truck to each of us, or just leave
2 it out. Because seriously, there's so much of it.

3 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Well, it is, and that
4 was at the recommendation of another of your fellow
5 commissioners who said, could you just include a
6 sample of some of the articles that are out there for
7 review?

8 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Minor issue.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: And so that's why
10 they're there. Ah, commissioners, thank you. I think
11 we have achieved a great deal today. We've made a lot
12 of progress, and while a lot of it doesn't happen at
13 the meetings, it certainly happens in between
14 meetings, and I want to thank each and every one of
15 you. The Commission meeting is adjourned.

16 (Whereupon, the National Gambling Impact
17 Study Commission Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.)

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